Heritage at Risk update January 2019.

- During 2018 a heritage at risk in Northern Ireland Register has been maintained. For the first nine months of the calendar year, this was maintained for the Department by Ulster Architectural Heritage (UAH) through an extension of their pre-existing partnership agreement with the Department. In September 2018, UAH were successful in being awarded a new contract to maintain the register.
- An economic appraisal of the Heritage at Risk project was carried out by the Historic Environment Division in the first months of the year. This considered the recommendations of the UAH report on the project and other potential options for addressing this issue in the future. It also considered the most appropriate means of delivering the options.
- This appraisal, along with a consideration of the other demands upon Divisional budgets, then informed a request for proposals from relevant charities to the Regeneration Stream of the Division's Historic Environment Fund in June.
- The Regeneration Stream guidance notes explained that Division had allocated £40k per annum to the project and that applications should consider *'how much recording work could be carried out within the resource available and how the advocacy objectives of the project could be innovatively delivered.'* It explained that *'The application should also make clear how you intend to split your activities and the time you will allocate to the project'*.
- The UAH were successful in this competition with a proposal that outlined a period of review and updating of the general record followed by focused engagement on three council areas from April 2019. This will be coupled with general awareness raising activities.
- In regard to the UAH report's recommendations therefore:
  - A cyclical survey has commenced. Three council areas will be reviewed in detail in 2018/19. This approach will be reviewed at the end of this period but if considered successful, all of NI's council areas will be covered in a 4 year cycle. This approach will also help to facilitate closer engagement with district councils on this issue.
  - The Division has a network of Field Monument Wardens who visit and risk assess scheduled historic monuments on a four year cycle. This information will be linked to the Heritage at Risk Register in a systematic way as part of ongoing work to refine and improve the Division's digital systems. The relevance of adding conservation areas will be considered as part of the initial review of council areas, but at this stage resource is focused upon individual heritage assets.
  - Portal and toolkit: this fits naturally as part of the Division's digital transformation work. Indicators around potential for reuse are being developed as part of the current contract.

- Focus on types, areas, owners and campaigns: area focus will be linked to the council areas being surveyed in 2019/20. The current offer also seeks an output to: *'Research and report on issues and solutions for a specific agreed building type.'*
- Inclusion of local authorities: this will be tied into the focus on three council areas, as well as through HED's general engagement with District Councils. Council proposals for new Local Area Plans will also be reviewed in regard to this issue.
- Priority and additional funding: Relative to other demands on the HED budget, £40k per annum has been allocated for the delivery of this project until April 2020. This is double the amount allocated in 2016/17 and a third more than allocated in 2017/18.
- Change of name. This has been carried out.
- Heritage Index. HED isn't convinced that there are specific efficiencies to be gained by sitting the heritage index work alongside the heritage at risk work. It has been carrying out work with a range of stakeholders to highlight the benefit of the historic environment. This work can be accessed at: www.heritagedeliversni.org .